

# Air Quality Summary—May 2008

## Baton Rouge Area

There was only one day during the month of May when ozone readings went over the new 75 ppb standard in the Baton Rouge area. On May 6, three monitors reached levels in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups level. New Roads was above the standard for 3 hours with a high 8-hour average reading of 79 ppb and an AQI of 109. French Settlement’s 8-hour high for the day was 78 ppb (106 AQI) and was over the standard for 3 hours. Pride had a high 8-hour average of 76 ppb or 101 AQI for 2 hours.

There were five Ozone Action Days called during the month: May 12, May 19, May 29, May 30 and May 31.

## Other Areas of the State

The Lafayette/Lake Charles area was the only other region to see levels in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups range during the month of May. On May 18, Lafayette had the highest 8-hour average reading of the month at 84 ppb (122 AQI) and ozone levels remained above the standard for 6 hours. Also on May 18, 8-hour ozone levels reached 76 ppb (101 AQI) at Carlyss.

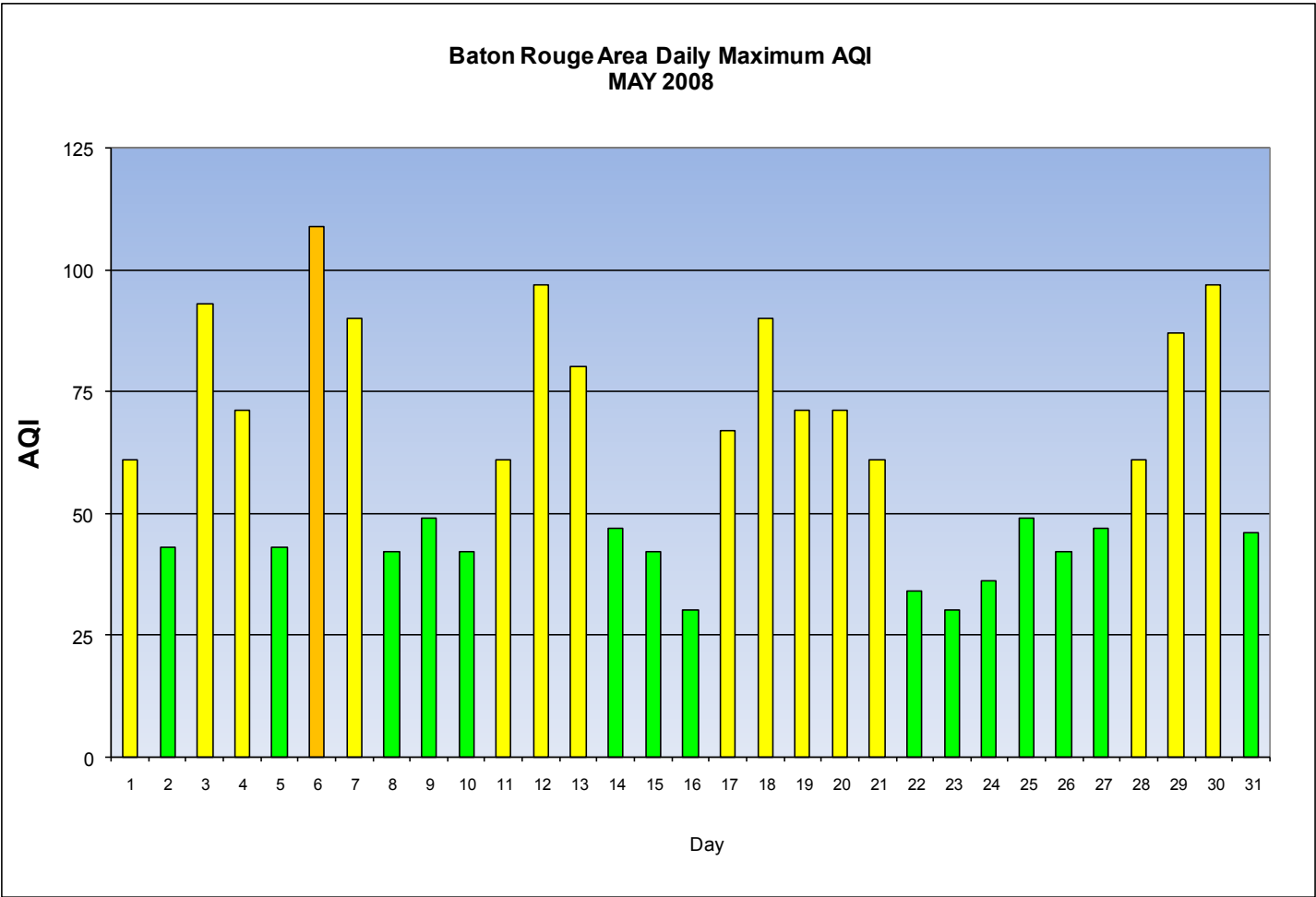
An Ozone Action Day was called for the New Orleans area on May 12.



0-50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151-200	Unhealthy
201-300	Very Unhealthy

Statewide 8-HR Ozone Readings /AQI  
Above 75 ppb

DATE	AQI	8-HR OZONE Concentration (ppb)	MONITORING SITE
5/6/08	109	79	New Roads
	106	78	French Settlement
	101	76	Pride
5/18/08	122	84	Lafayette—USGS
	101	76	Carlyss



# Baton Rouge Area Climate Summary—May 2008

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May 2008 was a “warm and wet” month for the Baton Rouge metro area.

May’s monthly temperature at Metro Airport averaged 76.0°F, 2.0° above-normal and ranking May 2008 among the top third of all Mays since 1930. Average daily temperatures were above-normal for 22 days, including each of the last 13 days of the month. Maximum daily temperatures during May averaged 86.1°F, 2.1° above-average. Mid-afternoon high temperatures reached or exceeded 90° on 7 days; historically, we can expect 5-6 days with highs at or above 90° during the month.

Table 1: Sky Condition (to 12,000 ft) based on ASOS observations from Baton Rouge Metro Airport during “daylight” hours.

Sky Condition: Sunrise to Sunset (Sky Coverage)	Clear to Mostly Sunny (0/10ths – 3/10ths)	Partly Cloudy / Partly Sunny (4/10ths – 6/10ths)	Mostly Cloudy to Cloudy (7/10ths – 10/10ths)
No. Days	9	17	5

\* Duration of “daylight” hours (Sunrise to Sunset) ranged from 13 hrs, 22 min (May 1) to 13 hrs, 59 min (May 31). “Civil Twilight” adds almost one hour of indirect sunlight to the day.

Rainfall at Metro Airport totaled 8.81” for May, 3.47” above-normal and ranking May 2008 as the 10th “wettest” May since 1930 and the “wettest” May since 2004. There were 8 days-with-rain ( $\geq 0.01$ ”) at Metro Airport, typical for the month. Storms on May 14-15 accounted for much of the monthly total, dumping more than 6.5” of rain at Metro Airport in less than 24 hours.

May rain totals across the greater metro area were quite varied, ranging from under 6” to more than 13” (see Table 2). Every NWS location in the greater metro area reported near-average to above-average rain for May, with several sites topping 10” for the month. In addition to the storms of May 14-15, active weather and locally-heavy rains fell on the morning of May 3 and the afternoon of May 22.

Although May 22 was a “wet” day for the region, most of the latter half of May was warmer- than- normal and generally drier-than-normal, largely due to the persistence of upper-level ridging over the southern U.S. at that time. This period was marked by fair to partly-cloudy days, above-normal daytime temperatures, and a tendency toward light winds, all potentially contributing to the development of low-level ozone during the afternoons.

Table 2: May rainfall for NWS stations in the Baton Rouge metro area.

NWS Location	May Rainfall	May DFN	No. Days $\geq 0.01$ ”	No. Days $\geq 1.00$ ”
Baker	13.21”	+8.16”	4	3
<b>BR - Metro AP</b>	<b>8.81”</b>	<b>+3.47”</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>
BR - Concord Estates	9.99”	+4.58”	6	3
BR - Sherwood Forest	9.82”	+4.46”	6	3
BR - LSU Campus	9.38”	- n / a -	7	4
Brusly	7.41”	+2.85”	7	2
Clinton (5 SE)	5.42”	-0.04”	5	3
Denham Springs	10.01”	+4.70”	6	3
Gonzales	5.84”	+1.00”	6	3
Jackson (3 E)	6.59”	- n / a -	5	3
Livingston	12.68”	+7.49”	7	3
LSU-Ben Hur Farm	7.28”	+2.04”	6	2
New Roads	7.46”	+2.11”	6	5
Oaknolia	8.15”	+2.69”	5	3
Port Allen	11.21”	+6.20”	6	4
Zachary	9.93”	+4.29”	5	3

\* DFN – Departure-from-Normal

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